In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A keyboard switch ~~according to Claim 1,~~ comprising a key top, a base plate installed on a side facing the key top, an insulation film sheet mounted thereon, an elastic member for applying elasticity to the key top at a predetermined height from the base plate, a plurality of link members for supporting the key top to be freely lifted to or lowered from the base plate, and a contact point portion opened or closed by the lifting or lowering operation of the key top,

wherein each of the plurality of link members has a first end portion and a second end portion facing each other, the plurality of link members being installed so as not to cross each other with the first end portions slidably supported by slide supporting portions formed on the key top and the second end portions rotatably supported by rotating supporting portions formed on the base plate, and

wherein each of the plurality of link members has a first side portion and a second side portion orthogonal to the first end portion and the second end portion so that the first side portion and the second side portion face each other, first shaft portions protrude to the outside from the first side portion and the second side portion of the first end portion, second shaft portions protrude in the same directions as the first shaft portions from the first side portion and the second side portion of the second end portion, the first shaft portions are slidably supported by the slide supporting portions of the key top, and the second shaft portions are rotatably supported by the rotating supporting portions of the base plate.

3. (Previously Presented) The keyboard switch according to Claim 2, wherein the plurality of link members comprises first, second and third link members, the first and second link members are installed to face each other with the elastic member between the first and second link members, and the

third link member is positioned outside the first and second shaft portions with the first and second shaft portions installed orthogonal to protrusion directions of the first and second shaft portions of the first and second link members.

4. (Currently Amended) The keyboard switch according to Claim 2, wherein the elastic member applies elasticity to a center portion of the key top, and the first shaft portions of the link members supported by the slide supporting portions of the key top are ~~aligned more closely~~closer to the elastic member than the second shaft portions thereof.

5. (Original) The keyboard switch according to Claim 2, wherein three sets of slide supporting portions are formed to face each other, the first and second slide supporting portions for supporting the first shaft portions of the first and second link members are adjacent to first supporting walls formed on the key top, and when the key top reaches a predetermined lifting position, the movement of the first shaft portions of the first and second link members is restricted in the first and second slide supporting portions to prevent the key top from being lifted over the predetermined lifting position.

6. (Previously Presented) The keyboard switch according to Claim 2, wherein the third slide supporting portions for supporting the first shaft portions of the third link member are installed on second supporting walls formed on the key top, the third link member has an other end portion more protruded to the outside than the second shaft portions, and when the key top reaches the lifting position, the other end portion contacts the base plate on which the film sheet is mounted, to prevent the key top from being lifted over the lifting position.

7. (Original) The keyboard switch according to Claim 2, wherein front end portions of each of the first shaft portions of the link members are tapered.

Summary

Applicant has rewritten Claims 2 and 4 and cancelled Claim 1. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-7 are pending after entry of this amendment.

Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action, Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that the term "more closely" is a relative term that renders the claim indefinite. The term more closely is not being used in a vacuum. Claim 4 recites that "the first shaft portions ... are aligned more closely to the elastic member than the second shaft portions..." It is clear from this that "more closely" is synonymous with "closer." However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant has rewritten Claim 4 and has replaced the term "more closely" with "closer." Accordingly, Claim 4 overcomes the rejection.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koike (U.S. Patent 5,813,521).

Claims 2-7 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

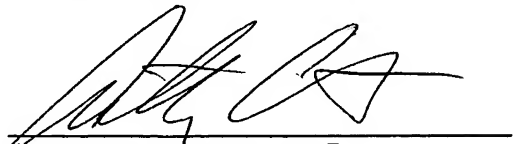
Applicant has rewritten Claim 2 to incorporate the elements of Claim 1 and submits that all of pending claims (Claims 2-7) are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks an allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview

would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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